

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of improving accuracy in searching digital ink stored in a database accessible by a processing system, the method comprising:
 - receiving, as input digital ink in the processing system, a search input query having a specialized format;
 - determining, in the processing system, the specialized format of the input digital ink;
 - selecting, in the processing system and from a plurality of different digital ink searching algorithms which are each specialized to respectively different specialized formats of individual characters of digital ink, the digital ink searching algorithm which is specialized to the determined specialized format of the individual characters of the input digital ink;
 - processing, in the processing system, the input digital ink in accordance with the selected digital ink searching algorithm, said processing including segmenting the input digital ink into feature vectors, said segmenting being specific to the specialized format of the input digital ink;
 - searching the database for a match to the search input query by utilising the processed input digital ink and selected digital ink searching algorithm; and
 - returning any matches to the search input query as a search result.
2. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined automatically, based on the digital ink to be searched.
3. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined automatically, based on the search input query.
4. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined automatically, based on information contained in a document associated with the digital ink to be searched.
5. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined manually, by a user selecting the specialized format of digital ink.

6. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined manually, by a parameter associated with the system processing the digital ink.
7. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined automatically, based on a font contained in the document associated with the digital ink to be searched.
8. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined based on a document label or document setting associated with the digital ink.
9. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined based on a document field label associated with the digital ink.
10. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined based on a document field attribute associated with the digital ink.
11. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined based on an analysis of the characteristics of the digital ink to be searched.
12. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined based on a written language or script of the digital ink to be searched.
13. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined based on a written character set of the digital ink to be searched.
14. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined based on differentiating written text from drawings in the digital ink to be searched.

15. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the search input query is of a type from the group of: textual; numerical; alphanumeric; pictorial; or graphical.

16. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein an indicating label of the specialized format of digital ink is stored with the digital ink.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for improving accuracy in searching digital ink, the system comprising:

(1) an input device to receive a search input query as input digital ink having a specialized format;

(2) a storage device to store searchable digital ink;

(3) at least one processor in communication with the storage device, the at least one processor being loaded with a plurality of different digital ink searching algorithms which are each specialized to respectively different specialized formats of individual characters of digital ink, the processor being configured to:

(A) determine the specialized format of the individual characters of the input digital ink;

(B) select the digital ink searching algorithm which is specialized to the determined specialized format of the input digital ink;

(C) process the input digital ink in accordance with the selected digital ink searching algorithm, said processing including segmenting the input digital ink into feature vectors, said segmenting being specific to the specialized format of the input digital ink; and,

(D) search the searchable digital ink for matches to the search input query by utilizing the processed input digital ink and selected digital ink searching algorithm;

and,

(4) an output device to display one or more search results.

18. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the input device is a pen-based input device.

19. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the input device is a keyboard or keypad.

20. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the output device is a printer or a visual display.

21. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the digital ink is associated with one or more of a document label, a document setting, a document field label or a document field attribute, and the specialized format of digital ink is determined from one or more of the document label, the document setting, the document field label or the document field attribute.

22. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the at least one processor determines the specialized format of digital ink based on user input to the input device.

23. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 17, the at least one processor adapted to perform the method of any one of the claims 1 to 16.